



Colorado Department of Education – Communications Office  
201 East Colfax Ave.  
Room 103  
Denver, CO 80203  
Phone: 303-866-3898  
Fax: 303-866-6938

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## **News Release**

### ***Statewide Enrollment Jumps Nearly 2 Percent For Second Year In A Row***

The Colorado Department of Education announced today the statewide pupil count for the 2009-2010 school year increased by 13,925 over the previous year, bringing the total to 832,368 students.

The change represents an increase of 1.7 percent, a growth rate slightly less than the 2008-2009 jump of 1.97 percent, which was the largest increase in recent history.

Across the grade levels, the 12<sup>th</sup> grade saw the biggest jump in pupil count with an increase of 2,631 students from the 2008-2009 school year to the 2009-2010 school year.

Among the 832,368 students, 60.6 percent (504,734) are white; 28.6 percent (237,797) are Hispanic; 5.9 percent are black (49,413); 3.7 percent are Asian (30,820) and 1.2 percent are American Indian (9,604).

The number of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunches (a common indicator of poverty) in kindergarten through 12th grade increased from 35.78 percent (282,733) to 38.86 percent (311,888). To qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, income for a family of four must be below \$40,793.

The districts with the largest student enrollment increases since 2005 include Douglas County School District (up 11,889), the Charter School Institute (up 6,204), Denver Public Schools (up 4,943) Adams 12 Five Star Schools (up 4,351), Brighton School District 27J (up 4,019), Falcon School District 49 (up 3,718), Adams-Arapahoe 27J (up 3,666),

St. Vrain Valley School District (up 3,463), Cherry Creek Schools (up 3,047) and Academy School District 20 (up 2,103).

The 15 largest school districts in the 2009-2010 school year are Jefferson County Schools (86,250), Denver Public Schools (77,255), Douglas County Schools (59,932), Cherry Creek Schools (51,708), Adams 12 Five Star Schools (41,949), Adams-Arapahoe 27J (36,967), Colorado Springs School District 11 (29,641), Boulder Valley Schools (29,011), St. Vrain Valley Schools (26,724), Poudre School District (26,520), Academy School District 20 (22,620), Mesa County Valley 51 (22,030), Greeley-Evans School District 6 (19,117), Pueblo City Schools (18,304) and Littleton Public Schools (15,753).

Statewide enrollment has grown every year since 1989, when the total stood at 562,755.

For access to the complete 2009-2010 school year student count information, click "2009 Pupil Membership" on [http://www.cde.state.co.us/index\\_stats.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_stats.htm).

**For more information, contact** Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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